(b) whether wells which are the main source of drinking water for rural people in the State, have caved and cease to exist;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government in tackling the drinking water problem of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the records available with the Central Ground Water Board, about 140 wells have caved in the season (June-July, 2001), collapsed partially or completely in difference districts of Kerala State.

(c) As per the findings of the Committee consisting of Central Ground Water Board, Centre for Earth Sciene Studies, Mines and Geology and the Geological Survey of India, the main reasons that appear to have contributed to the wells collapse are the type of well lining, lithological conditions, rainfall intensity and recharge, and absence of free flow of water across the well lining from the aquifer to the well. The sudden build up of different water pressure has also been attributed as another reason to the incidents of wells collapse.

(d) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Drinking Water component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The wells which are reported to have caved in or collapsed in different districts in Kerala State are private wells and do not come under the rural drinking water supply schemes implemented by the Government.

Kerala Government has been allocated Rs. 63.31 crore under ARWSP and Rs. 7.74 crore under Rural Drinking Water component of PMGY for the current year, out of which Government of India have already released Rs. 31.65 crore as first instalment under ARWSP.

Release of DRDA Funds to Assam

3288. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the funds under Centre-State share of DRDA in Assam during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details of amount released so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Jawahar Gram Smridhi Yojana (JGSY), the Indira Awaas Yojana (JAY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are the main Poverty Alleviation Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development in Assam on sharing basis between the Centre and the State. The amount released under these Schemes to Assam during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is indicated below.

{Rs. in lakhs)

S.N	Name of the Scheme	Amount Released from the Centre		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	SGSY	3062.36	0.00	0.00
2.	JGSY	3787.01	0.00	0.00
3.	EAS	4701.12	5273.31	0.00
4.	IAY	13,820.00	8177.40	0.00

The full amount as per allocation could not be released to the Govt, of Assam because of short/non-release of State share and non-furnishing of revised Audit reports/Utilisation Certificates by the State Govt. The State Govt, has been advised to submit the proposals with requisite documents in time for ealry release of Central Assistance.

District-wise plan for roads in rural India

3289. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing district-wise plan for roads in rural India;

(b) if so, the stage at which the project has reached;